V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent 07-124193. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Japan 193 teaches a continuous wrapping machine and method for wrapping a magnetic powder in a wrapping film.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a continuous wrapping machine for wrapping a magnetic powder in wrapping film that includes a measuring drum, a sealing drum, and a sealing device. Claim 1 recites that the measuring drum has a plurality of recesses formed into an outer periphery of the measuring drum with each recess sized to receive measured amounts of the magnetic powder and includes magnetic means for magnetically retaining the measured-out amounts of the magnetic powder in the respective recesses and means for cutting off the magnetic retaining force of the magnetic retaining means to transfer the measured-out amounts of the magnetic powder to the sealing drum. Claim 1 further recites that the sealing drum includes a magnetic means for magnetically retaining the measured-out amounts of the magnetic powder on a first continuous wrapping film fed onto its periphery with the sealing device sealing the first continuous wrapping film and a second continuous wrapping film, which is fed onto the measured-out amounts of the magnetic powder on the sealing drum together around each of the measured-out amounts of the magnetic powder. Claim 1 also recites that the sealing device has a cylindrically-shaped outer surface that receives a second continuous wrapping film from a second continuous wrapping film source being conveyed from a first direction and applies the second continuous wrapping film onto the first continuous wrapping film as the second continuous wrapping film is conveyed in a second direction different from the first direction.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a sealing device having a cylindrically-shaped outer surface that receives a second continuous wrapping film from a second continuous wrapping film source being conveyed from a first direction and applies the second continuous wrapping film onto the first continuous wrapping film as the second continuous wrapping film is conveyed in a second direction different from the first direction.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention has advantages over the cited prior art.

The invention disclosed in the applied art has the following deficiencies:

(i) Although magnetic powder 1 is provided from hopper 2 into recessions 5, the magnetic powder merely enters the recessions 5 from hopper 2. Accordingly, the amounts of magnetic powder in the recessions 5 are uneven. Therefore, the amounts of wrapped-up magnetic powder are uneven.

(ii) In the drum 5, magnets 9 are disposed in the recessions. Accordingly, magnetic powder adheres to the magnets 9 and the amounts of magnetic powder adhered to the magnets 6 gradually increase. Therefore, the amounts of wrapped-up magnetic powder decrease and are uneven.

(iii) The drum 5 has a suction chamber 16 and a non-suction chamber 18. The suction chamber 16 sucks air to draw a film 8 into a recession. Thus, preparations for receiving magnetic powder are made. However, magnetic powder is composed of iron powder, water, vermicolite, activated carbon, salt, and so on. When air is sucked, magnetic powder is exposed to an amount of air several hundred times the usual amount of air. Accordingly, magnetic powder is oxidized and generates heat in the recessions, Thus, wrapped-up magnetic powder has no commercial value.

The invention of the present application has the following advantages:

(i) Because surplus magnetic powder is scraped away from the recesses 14 by the doctor blades 19, measuring is accurate. Accordingly, the amounts of wrapped-up magnetic powder are even.

(ii) Because the magnets 16 are disposed inside the measuring drum 1 and not in the recesses 14, magnetic powder does not adhere to the magnets 16 and the whole amounts of magnetic powder in the recesses 14 are wrapped up. Thus, the wrapped-up amounts of magnetic powder are even.

(iii) Because the invention of the present application does not have a suction chamber, magnetic powder does not generate heat in the wrapping process.

As a result, at least for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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